



The Inventory

An Update Concerning the SRS FIA Program



Forest Inventory and Analysis
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SRS FIA Informational Update (September 2006)

Increasing interest in the Southern Research Station Forest Inventory and Analysis (SRS FIA) has focused on making SRS FIA data available in a timely manner. SRS FIA personnel are making all attempts to meet this need. The National FIA self-imposed standard is six months after verification that all plots are complete within a State. SRS FIA has generally not met this deadline. That is changing! SRS FIA is transitioning from our previous regional data processing system to the National Information Management System (NIMS). In fact we have begun using NIMS on a regular basis. SRS FIA personnel are still in a learning situation regarding the functioning of NIMS but are progressing very quickly. Also, the NIMS procedures for calculating growth, removals, and mortality (GRM) estimates have been finalized through the efforts of SRS and Northern Research Station FIA personnel. One of the major obstacles to producing and posting current 5-year inventory data and GRM information is that all data used has to be brought to current database standards for variables. This means that data collected in 2002 has to be transformed so it is consistent with data collected in 2006 and needs to be structured consistently to be processed with NIMS. This is no easy task as this may include up to four different versions of the National field guide. We are making significant progress to streamline these efforts but more work needs to be done. Please bear with us during this time period. If you have any questions regarding the availability of data for a particular State, please call or send an email.

As always, if you have any other questions regarding FIA, please submit those questions to Charlene Walker (cwalker@fs.fed.us) and we will answer your questions in a future issue of *The Inventory*. Thank you for your interest in FIA and please let us know how we may serve you in the future.

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Information Resource and Technology News

The NIMS Compilation System (NIMS-CS) was successfully implemented in a production environment last month by the Information Management section. Alabama, Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas have been compiled through NIMS-CS and the results verified against the regional processing system. The section is working hard on loading past data so GRM estimates can be computed for the current inventories. Many people worked hard and did their part to make this successful transition.

The 2003, 2004, and 2005 Phase 3 (P3) data for Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Texas were posted to the FIADB website in June for those subcycles of data where Phase 2 data is available. Also posted is the 2004 and 2005 P3 data for South Carolina. In the next few months, additional P3 data should be available for Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. A big thanks to Helen Beresford and Larry Royer for accomplishing this task.

For additional information please contact Ali Conner at 865-862-2228 or aconner@fs.fed.us.

Issue 3, September 2006

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Update on Mississippi Inventory

Temperatures are soaring and rainfall is nearly 3 inches below normal in Mississippi as inventory crews plod through the hottest months of the field season. Despite high temperatures, high humidity, alligators, cottonmouths, ticks, and poison ivy, die-hard field crews from SRS FIA, Mississippi, and neighboring States continue to make progress. As of August 29, 2006, data collection in Mississippi is approximately 53 percent complete. All counties in the hurricane-damaged Southeastern tier have been completed. In addition, most of the Delta counties are complete. Preliminary analyses of data collected in hurricane damaged counties are underway.

For more information, contact Sonja N. Oswalt at 865-826-2058 or soswalt@fs.fed.us.



Ryan David and Ben Bingham collect FIA data on the Homochitto National Forest in Adams County, Mississippi.



The columns are the "Windsor Ruins," the remains of a home in Jefferson County that survived the Civil War but burned accidentally in 1890.



DATE: 08/25/2006
Data collection progress in the State of Mississippi, by county and completion.

New Methods and Techniques Section Head for SRS FIA

John W. Coulston reported August 7, 2006 to the Knoxville, TN SRS FIA office. John fills the Methods and Techniques Section Head position which had been vacant for a long period of time. John has a BS, MS, and PhD all from North Carolina State University in Forestry. Previously John was working cooperatively with the USDA Forest Service SRS Forest Health Monitoring Unit in Research Triangle Park, NC. His work centered on National-level Forest Health Reporting. Much of his focus in this previous effort involved quantitative approaches for broadscale analyses. Some of his current work within SRS FIA will focus on comparison of various methods for determining phase 1 estimates including aerial photography interpretation and various other remote sensing platforms. The main objective of the Methods and Techniques section is to examine methods for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of SRS FIA production efforts.

John can be reached at jcoulston@fs.fed.us or 865-862-2008.

Current Data Posted at Mapmaker (FIADB)

State	FIADB cycle	Survey	Sub-cycle	% Posted	GRM	Periodic annual	Data year
AL	4	8	1,3,4,5	80	No	A	2004
AR	8	8	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2005
FL	8	8	3,4,5	60	Yes	A	2005
GA	8	8	(1-7)	100	No	A	2004
KY	5	5	(1-6)	100	Yes*	A	2004
LA	3	7	2,4,5	60	Yes	A	2003
MS	1	7	NA	100	Yes	P	1994
NC	3	7	NA	100	Yes	P	2002
OK (east)	1	6	NA	100	Yes	P	1993
SC	9	9	1,2,4,5	80	No	A	2005
TN	4	7	2,3,4,5	80	No	A	2003
TX (east)	7	7	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2003
VA	8	8	(1-5)	100	Yes	A	2001**

GRM = Growth, removals, and mortality.

* Subcycle 6 is the remeasure of the 1988 inventory.

** Annual moving average. Three subcycles from cycle 7 and 2 subcycles from cycle 8. Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands are not available yet but will be in the next 3 months.

For more information, contact Ali Conner at 865-862-2228 or aconner@fs.fed.us.

FIA Data Workshops

The Information Management section is providing FIA data workshops across the region. The goal is to facilitate access to FIA data on the web and to inform users of current FIA data request guidelines and privacy laws. Session topics will include:

Spatial Data Services

Privacy Laws
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

FIA Publications

Hardcopy Availability
Electronic Publications Available on
SRS Website

Forest Inventory Mapmaker 2.1

Standard Tables
Custom Tables
Create Maps

FIA Data Mart: Download Files

Snapshot_FIADB
NIMS_FIADB
RPA Summary DB (shape files)
Phase 3 Data

SOLE: Southern On Line Estimator

Timber Product Output (TPO)

SRS TPO Reports
National TPO Reports
RPA TPO Tablemaker

The first workshop was held July 19 in Knoxville, TN. There were a total of 10 participants; 8 from the State forestry agencies in Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. There was one private consultant from South Carolina and a timber industry user from as far away as Ontario, Canada. We received some very encouraging feedback from this group that confirmed the workshop met their needs.

The second workshop was held August 1 in Hot Springs, AR before the opening of the Southern Regional Extension Forestry conference. There were 11 total participants, including 2 with the Arkansas Forestry Commission and 2 with the Texas Forest Service. There were three extension foresters present, two from industry, and two USFS employees. The feedback from both sessions is being evaluated to improve the workshop.

If you are interested in hosting a workshop at your location please contact Jeff Turner at 865-862-2053 or jturner02@fs.fed.us.



Future Locations and Dates:

Auburn, AL 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, September 26, 2006; 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, September 27, 2006 (after SE-SAF meeting)
Pinehurst, NC January 2007 (split session before and after AP-SAF meeting)

Registration and Instructions:

Each one day session will be limited to 15 participants. To register or to obtain more information, please call Jeff Turner at 865-862-2053 or send an email with your name and phone number to jturner02@fs.fed.us.

8th Annual Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium

The 8th Annual Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposium will be held on October 16-19, 2006, at the Portola Plaza Hotel in Monterey, CA. The primary objectives of the Annual Forest Inventory and Analysis Symposia series are threefold:

- * to document progress by the Research Stations of the USDA Forest Service in developing and implementing the national annual forest inventory system,
- * to document methodological and analytical efforts intended to make the system faster and cheaper, to make estimates more precise, and to make the distribution of data, estimates, and products more comprehensive, and
- * to foster collaboration among FIA scientists, our partners, and our international peers.

The 2006 Symposium will emphasize international contributions and collaborations and will include keynote and invited speakers from Canada, Asia, the Pacific Region, and other countries. The meeting will include keynote presentations, invited paper sessions, and contributed paper sessions. Presentation topics include sampling, modeling, estimation, remote sensing, mapping, ecological analyses, forest health, sustainable forest management, and analytical reporting.

For information concerning arrangements and other details on the meeting visit the following website:
<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/symposium/>.

Status of Current Field Inventories

State	Cycle start date	Subcycle start date	Cycle and subcycle of current inventory	Percent of current subcycle collection completed	Projected web posting date for next subcycle
Alabama	2005	Dec-05	9-4	71	Jun-07
Arkansas	2005	Nov-05	9-3	54	May-07
Florida	2001	Jun-05	3-1	86	Mar-07
Georgia	2004	Oct-05	9-3	96	Mar-07
Kentucky	2005	Mar-05	6-2	99	Feb-07
Louisiana	2000	Nov-04	3-3	100	Aug-07
Mississippi	2005	Nov-05	8-6	53	Sep-07
North Carolina	2003	Mar-06	4-3	44	Sep-07
Oklahoma	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Puerto Rico	2002	Jan-06	4-3	66	May-07
South Carolina	2006	Jan-06	4-1	73	Jun-07
Tennessee	2005	Apr-06	8-3	29	Oct-07
Texas (east)	2003	Jul-05	4-4	5	Feb-07
Texas (west)	2004	Mar-05	1-3	18	**
U.S. Virgin Islands	2004	Jul-04	1	100	Jun-07
Virginia	2002	Oct-05	4-2	96	Mar-07

** Data not posted due to only two panels of data completed. Information compiled August 22, 2006.

Forest Industry Survey Status

Forest industry surveys for all of the 13 Southern States for 2005 are ongoing. Survey data has been trickling in over the last few months but most of the data will come in during September and October. More than 75 percent of the pulpwood data for 2005 has already been received in the office. Timber product output (TPO) assessments for 2003 have been completed and are back from the publisher. The 2004 Southern Pulpwood Report is also available now. A comprehensive TPO assessment for the South for 2003 has been sent to the Asheville office for technical edit and review. This report should be going out for publication within the next two months.

For more information, contact Tony Johnson at 865-862-2042 or tjohnson09@fs.fed.us.

Utilization Studies

The Resource Use section gave a presentation on utilization studies at the Spring State Coordinators meeting held in Mt. Pleasant, SC. The presentation reiterated the importance of felled tree utilization surveys to help explain harvest and removals. These surveys are used to determine underutilization or overutilization factors for estimates of logging residues and to characterize the trees being harvested by product. Data for these surveys are collected by the FIA field crews. The South has reasonably current utilization surveys for all of the 13 Southern States except Kentucky and Oklahoma. Our goal is to get these two States completed as soon as possible and put together a Southern harvest and utilization report.

For additional information, contact Tony Johnson at 865-862-2042 or tjohnson09@fs.fed.us.



Mike Howell is in Bamberg County, SC demonstrating to SC Forestry Commission personnel techniques for measuring felled trees.

One of Our Most Frequently Asked Questions: When Will We Get GRMs?

The transition to annual inventories from periodic and the changeover to fixed plot remeasurement from the old 10-point cluster variable radius design resulted in numerous delays in data availability during the transition. One unfortunate gap that continues to be problematic is the availability of timely GRM estimates for many of our Southern States. The much needed information on inventory change components should become available for several States before the end of 2006. In the past two years, a team of FIA scientists have collaborated on the development of the appropriate GRM components and calculation protocols. Scientists from the Northern FIA unit and the Southern FIA unit have worked together to develop the detailed algorithms and computer code needed to populate common national databases that will house the new information on change components. Exhaustive testing and evaluation of the performance of this system have been conducted over many months and the new GRM module is now ready for operation. During the coming weeks and months, GRM data derived from the current annual plot design will be produced, reviewed, and made available to the public for many Southern States including Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, Virginia, and North Carolina. We expect that the data on GRMs will be routinely available along with the annual data on forest area and current inventory statistics as we move into 2007. Change components for a limited number of States will continue to be populated from remeasurement of the previous 10-point cluster variable radius design until the transition is complete. These States include Florida and Mississippi.

For additional information, contact Ray Sheffield at 828-257-4358 or rsheffield@fs.fed.us.

FY2006 Research Publications Published Since June 1, 2006

Bentley, J.W.; Cartwright, W.E. 2006. Alabama's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-107. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 45 p.

Bentley, J.W.; Howell, M.; Johnson, T.G. 2006. Florida's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-110. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 40 p.

Bentley, J.W.; Johnson, T.G. 2006. North Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-109. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 23 p.

Clatterbuck, W.K.; Smalley, G.W.; Turner, J.A.; Travis, A. 2006. Natural history and land use history of Cumberland Plateau forests in Tennessee. NCASI Special Report No. 09-01. 37 p.

Howell, M.; Becker, C.W. 2006. Virginia's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-108. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 44 p.

Howell, M.; New B.D.; Mann, M.C. 2006. North Carolina's timber industry—an assessment of timber product output and use, 2003. Resour. Bull. SRS-112. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 42 p.

Johnson, T.G.; Steppleton, C.D. 2006. Southern pulpwood production, 2004. Resour. Bull. SRS-111. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 39 p.

Salajanu, D.; Jacobs, D.M. 2005. Assessing biomass and forest area classifications from modis satellite data while incrementing the number of FIA data panels. Pecora 16 “global priorities in land remote sensing”. The 16th annual William T. Pecora memorial symposium. Sioux Falls, SD. 10 p.

To access these and other SRS publications, visit: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>

Resource Bulletin Publications Online

All FIA resource bulletin publications published for the Southern United States from the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (1963 to 1995), Southern Forest Experiment Station (1963 to 1997), and the Southern Research Station (1996 to present) have been posted online at the Southern Research Station Website. We are currently working on posting all FIA publications online for the entire Southern United States since FIA began collecting and reporting on forest inventories in the 1930s. We are planning to complete this project by Fall 2006.

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FIA is a USDA Forest Service research work unit which collects, analyzes, and reports on data pertaining to our forest land in the Southern region. This region includes Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Virginia.

FIA conducts this program of research to improve the understanding of the Southern forest ecosystem.

Government and private agencies utilize this data to monitor forest resources, forest use, and forest health. The collection of data is done on private and public land.

Our system development success is a direct result of our partners, our talented scientists, analysts, computer specialists, and other staff members who have continually contributed to the mission of this complex project.

National and Southern FIA Websites of Interest

National FIA website: <http://www.fia.fs.fed.us>

National FIA database available at: <http://www.ncrs2.fs.fed.us/4801/fiadb>

National Timber Product Output (TPO) database available at: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/php/tpo2/tpo.php>

National Woodland Owner Survey website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/woodlandowners/>

Information specific to Southern States: <http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/>

Electronic copies of SRS FIA publications at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/>

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